RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
NOV 24 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A respiratory measurement system, comprising:

a plastic tube configured to be placed across a chest of the person, the plastic tube being substantially transparent to x-rays~~, the plastic tube not having a non-plastic member attached thereto across the chest of the person~~;

a plastic cord having a portion that is disposed through an interior of the plastic tube, the plastic cord being substantially transparent to x-rays~~, the portion of the plastic cord not having another non-plastic member attached thereto~~; and,

a linear position sensor coupled to an end of the plastic cord, the end of the plastic cord being configured to be disposed away from the chest of the person, the linear position sensor generating a measurement signal indicative of an amount of linear displacement of the plastic cord during respiration by the person.

2. (Original) The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 further comprising a device generating a visual indication of respiratory function of the person based on the signal.

3. (Original) The respiratory measurement system of claim 2 wherein respiratory function comprises a lung volume level.

4. (Previously Presented) The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 wherein the plastic cord comprises a polypropylene string.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) The respiratory measurement system of claim 1 further comprising:

a tabletop having a securing device and a pulley coupled thereto, wherein a first portion of the plastic cord extends between the securing device and the pulley, the securing device and the pulley being positioned on the tabletop to allow the chest of the person to be disposed between the securing device and the pulley.

8. (Previously Presented) The respiratory measurement system of claim 7 wherein a second portion of the plastic cord extends from the pulley to the linear position sensor.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring respiratory motion of a person, comprising:

disposing a plastic tube across a chest of the person, the plastic tube being substantially transparent to x-rays~~, the plastic tube not having a non-plastic member attached thereto~~;

disposing a portion of a plastic cord through an interior of the plastic tube, wherein a position sensor is coupled to an end of the plastic cord and is disposed away from the chest of the person, the plastic cord being substantially transparent to x-rays~~, the portion of the plastic cord not having another non-plastic member attached thereto~~; and,

generating a measurement signal indicative of an amount of displacement of the plastic cord during respiration by the person utilizing the position sensor coupled to the end of the plastic cord.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the plastic cord comprises a polypropylene string.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising providing a visual indication of respiratory function of the person based on the signal.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said respiratory function comprises a lung volume level.

14. (Currently Amended) A medical diagnostic system, comprising:

a tabletop;

an X-ray device disposed proximate the tabletop;

a plastic cord that has a portion configured to be placed across a chest of a person lying on the tabletop, the plastic cord being substantially transparent to x-rays~~, the portion of the plastic cord not having a non-plastic member attached thereto~~; and,

a linear position encoder operatively coupled to an end of the plastic cord generating a measurement signal indicative of an amount of displacement of the plastic cord during respiration by the person, the end of the plastic cord and the linear position encoder being configured to be disposed away from the chest of the person outside a scanning area of the X-ray device.

15. (Original) The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 further comprising a device generating a visual indication of respiratory function of the person based on the signal.

16. (Original) The medical diagnostic system of claim 15 wherein said respiratory function comprises a lung volume level.

17. (Previously Presented) The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 wherein the plastic cord comprises a polypropylene string.

18. (Currently Amended) The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 further comprising a plastic tube configured to be placed across the chest of the person, the plastic cord being disposed in the plastic tube, the plastic tube being substantially transparent to x-rays~~, the plastic tube not having a non-plastic member attached thereto~~.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) The medical diagnostic system of claim 14 further comprising a securing device and a pulley coupled to the tabletop, a first portion of the plastic cord extending between the securing device and the pulley, the securing device and the pulley being positioned on the tabletop to allow a chest of the person to be disposed between the securing device and the pulley.

21. (Previously Presented) A respiratory measurement system, comprising:

a plastic cord that is configured to be placed across a chest of a person, the plastic cord being substantially transparent to x-rays;

a sensor coupled to the plastic cord generating a measurement signal indicative of an amount of displacement of the plastic cord during respiration by the person; and

a tabletop having a securing device and a pulley coupled thereto, wherein a first portion of the plastic cord extends between the securing device and the pulley, the securing device and the pulley being positioned on the tabletop to allow the chest of the person to be disposed between the securing device and the pulley.

22. (Previously Presented) A medical diagnostic system, comprising:

a tabletop;

an X-ray device disposed proximate the tabletop;

a plastic cord that is configured to be placed across a chest of a person lying on the tabletop, the plastic cord being substantially transparent to x-rays;

a sensor operatively coupled to the plastic cord generating a measurement signal indicative of an amount of displacement of the plastic cord during respiration by the person, the sensor being outside a scanning area of the X-ray device; and

a securing device and a pulley coupled to the tabletop, a first portion of the plastic cord extending between the securing device and the pulley, the securing device and the pulley being

positioned on the tabletop to allow the chest of the person to be disposed between the securing device and the pulley.